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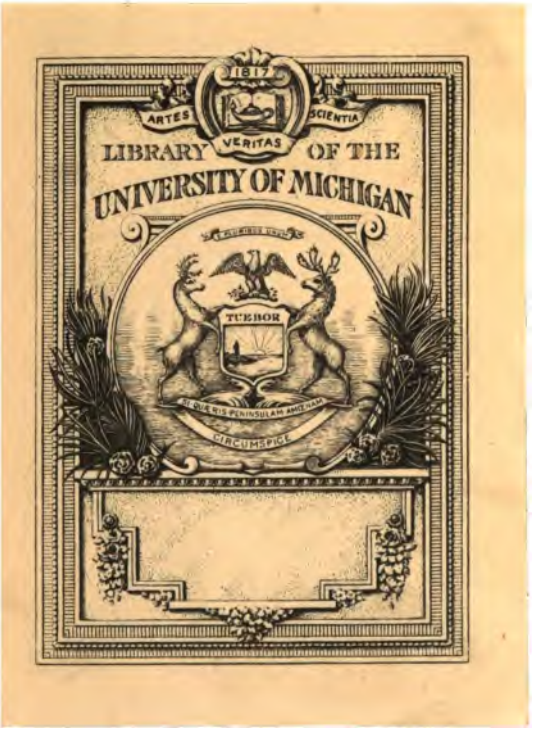
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A

LETTER

FROM

Monſieur *de CROS*,

(Who was an Embaſſador at the Treaty of *Nimeguen*, and a Reſident in *England*, in K. *Ch.* the Second's Reign.)

Which may ſerve for an Anſwer to the Impoſtures of Sir *Wm Temple*, heretofore Ambaſſador from *England* at the *Hague*, and at *Nimeguen*;

Till ſuch time as a more ample and particular Relation be made of the Buſineſs in hand.

Together with ſome

REMARKS

Upon his

MEMOIRS,

To make appear how groſly he is miſtaken in the greateſt part of the moſt important Matters he relates concerning what paſſed from the Year 1672, until the Year 1679.

LONDON,

Printed in the Year 1693.

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A LETTER from Monſ. *de Cros*, &c.

My Lord,

I Have been informed of the Calumnies that Sir *W. T.* hath cauſed to be Printed againſt me. I know very well that Sir *W.* is of great Worth, and deſerves well; and that he hath been a long time employed, and that too upon important occaſions; but I am as certain, that he had but a ſmall ſhare in the Secrecy of the late King *Charles*'s Deſigns in the greateſt part of the Affairs, for which he was employed, from 72, till 79, which is the main Subject of his Work.

This Conſideration alone might not perhaps have given me the curioſity, or at leaſt, any great earneſtneſs to read his Memoirs; and I might have very well judged that I could draw from them no ſufficient light and inſight for the diſcovery of ſo many Intrigues.

Nay beſides, I might have doubted whether or no theſe Memoirs might not have been his own Panegyrick upon himſelf, and the diminution and undervaluing of the real Worth and Glory of ſeveral Perſons of Quality, and diſtinguiſhed by their Merit; whoſe Fortune and Reputation Sir *W. T.* hath ſo much envied: for I am particularly acquainted with Sir *W*'s Pride. He looks upon himſelf to have the greateſt Reach, to be the wiſeſt

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wiſeſt and ableſt Politician of his Time; and a man may perceive abundance of Satyrical Reflexions ſcattered here and there in his Work againſt moſt illuſtrious Perſons, and that he hath ſtuffed his Memoirs with his own Praiſe, and the fond over-weening Opinion he hath of himſelf.

Without doubt this is quite different from that Sincerity and Modeſty which reigns throughout the Memoirs of *Villeroy*, in the Negotiations and Tranſactions of *Jeanin*, in the Letters of Card. *Doſſat*, thoſe mighty and truly eminent Perſons, eſteemed as ſuch by the greateſt Princes of their Age; and even ſtill are to this day, by the ableſt Politicians, with much more Juſtice and Glory than Sir *W*'s Book-Seller ſtiles him, *One of the Greateſt Men of this Age*. It had been Sir *W*'s duty to have regulated himſelf according to their moſt excellent Pattern.

I ſhall at preſent only quote one Paſſage, which I accidentally light on at the firſt opening his Book, whereby one may eaſily gueſs at the greatneſs of his preſumption; in a ſhort time, *My Lord*, I ſhall give you occaſion to obſerve many others. *The Negotiations*, ſaith he, *that I managed and tranſacted at the* Hague, *at* Bruſſels, *at* Aix la Chapelle, *which ſaved* Flanders *from the* French *Clutches*, *in* 68. *made People believe I had ſome Credit and Reputation amongſt the* Spaniards, *as well as in* Holland.

'Twas a Piece of ſtrange Ingratitude of the *Hollanders* and *Spaniards*, as well as of his own dear Country-men, ſo much concern'd for the preſervation of *Flanders*, not to rear him a Statue, which, he ſaith, ſome-where elſe, Mr. *Godolphin*

 had

had promiſed him. Could Sir. *W. T.* have done any thing to deſerve it more; or was there any thing more worthy of Triumph than to have preſerved *Flanders*, a Country ſo important to the *Spaniard*, and the only Bulwark of *Holland* and *England*? But Sir *W.* was apt to believe he could not find any one who was better able to hammer out his own Glory than himſelf; and he flattered himſelf with the Opinion that he ſhould erect himſelf as many Statues, as there are places in his Memoirs, crouded with intolerable and ridiculous Vain-glory.

It was not the Negotiations, my Lord, that Sir *W.* tells us he managed at the *Hague*, *Bruſſels*, and at *Aix la Chappelle*, which ſaved *Flanders* from the hands of the *French*, in 1668. The *French* publiſhed that they were beholding to the moſt Chriſtian Kings Moderation for that Peace; who was willing to put a ſtop to the progreſs and courſe of his victorious Arms. But the truth of it is, they moſt juſtly aſcribed all the Merit, and all the Glory of the Peace, and of the Triple-League, to the generous reſolution and ſtedfaſtneſs of the States-General. They made uſe, upon this occaſion, of a Miniſter of State far beyond Sir *W.* in Prudence, Experience, and Capacity, one, who was in the Opinion even of his Enemies, the moſt able Manager of Affairs of his Age.

I ſhall not undertake, my Lord, in this place, ſtrictly to examine Sir *W. Temple*'s *Memoirs*: I will do it ſhortly if God ſpare me with Life; nay, and I promiſe you a Volume of Remarks, at leaſt, as large as his Book.

If, like him, I had the Vanity to procure the printing of Memoirs, during my life-time, I could now have a fair pretence ſo to do, and without all queſtion

ſtion I ſhould publiſh more juſt and ſolid ones than his are. Not, that I have the preſumption to judge my ſelf more capable to do it; but, in ſeveral places he relates ſome things falſly, whereof I am much better informed. The only Hero of my piece ſhall be Truth, without Complaiſance or Flattery; without Paſſion, no not ſo much as againſt him: So that I ſhall do him the ſatisfaction and kindneſs to inſtruct him better, even touching divers Matters, which he performed and executed, without knowing ſo much as the reaſon why he was made to act ſo.

It is not likewiſe, becauſe I have been one of the Council of the King his Maſter; yet I have had the Happineſs, during ſome Years, to partake in the Confidence of a Miniſter of State, who was in ſeveral important, weighty Occaſions, as it were the *Primum Mobile* of that Conduct and Management that ſurprized all the World. You know, my Lord, what Credit he had, and of what nature his Intelligences were. Sir *W.* may well imagine that I did not ill improve this able Miniſters Confidence, when Sir *W.* tells us, *That I had wholly devoted my ſelf to him.*

Men are not ignorant likewiſe, that oftentimes I have had ſome acceſs to the King's Miniſters of State, and even near to the King himſelf, ; it did more eſpecially appear, in the buſineſs for which I took my Journey to *Nimeguen*; and it would be a great ſhame that a Man *more cunning and ſubtil than them all*, according to the King's own Teſtimony, as Sir *W.* relates it, ſhould not have had (conſidering ſo much freedom of acceſs and eaſineſs) the addreſs and cunning to dive into the moſt hidden Springs of Deliberations and Reſolutions, wherein the *Swede* and my Maſter had ſo great an Intereſt.

Be-

Be therefore assured, my Lord, that after my Death, nay perhaps, whilst I am alive, if need require, and if I be obliged thereto, there will appear some Memoirs, which will divulge some Matters the truth whereof is still so carefully concealed, Sir *W.* doth ingeniously confess that hitherto he was ignorant of them; He, who hath so much quickness of Penetration, and seems to make us believe that he was the King his Master's Confident.

You your self, my Lord, have often urged me to acquaint you with such important Secrets, and of such great Consequence; and altho' I could not possibly refuse, upon the account of that honour you do me to afford me any share in your Favours, to let you have a glympse of one part of what pass'd in one of the most important Negotiations of that time; yet you had so much Generosity as not to take the advantage of it you might have done, to the infallible ruine, as was believed, of a Minister whom you take for one of your greatest Enemies; yet on this occasion one could not well lay any thing to his charge, besides his blind obedience to the Will of his Master.

The Truth of it is, I am not obliged to have the same Considerations that with held me at that time, but yet I preserve a profound respect for the Memory of the late King, and also a great respect for some Persons, who are even at this time of the day so much concerned, that I should hold my tongue, if it were not for that reason, it would be a very easie matter for me, to make appear without any more adoe, how basely Sir *W.* is mistaken in what he delivers concerning divers Negotiations of *England*; and especially concerning my Journey to *Nimeguen*.

My

My Design is not at all, my Lord, to write you a Letter full of Invectives against Sir *W.* I shall not descend to the Particulars of his Behaviour, and shall tell you no more of them at present, than what is needful to let your self and every body else judge that I have means in my hand to be revenged for the Injury he hath done me.

They will be without doubt more just Invectives, than those that he fills his Book withal. He set upon me first. He writes out of a Spirit of Revenge, with a great deal of Heat and Passion, and like a Man that believ'd himself touch'd and wrong'd to the purpose. As for my part, my Lord, I protest I write to you in cold Blood; I do so much scorn the Injury that Sir *W.* affects to do me, that I should but laugh at it, if my silence was not able to persuade you, and those persons whose esteem of me doth do me so much honour, that I have but small care of my reputation.

Sir *W.* hath shined a long time, 'tis true; but yet he hath borrowed all his Splendour first of all from the protection of a Lord, whom he betray'd at last, of whom he speaks too insolently in his Memoirs, and with abundance of Ingratitude; and then again he advanced himself by the protection of certain other persons to whom he was devoted, to the prejudice of his bounden Duty: *He did so well insinuate himself* (that I may make use of the Terms he makes use of in speaking of me) into the Favours and into the Confidence of those, near to whom it was necessary for him to have access, that he might have been in a capacity to render considerable Services to the King his Master, and to his Country, if so be he had made better use of this advantage;

but

but he kept it just after the same manner as he had got it; that is to say, that he often came short of exact Faithfulness and Loyalty, which a Minister of State is obliged to maintain inviolably even in the least Matters, that doth plainly appear in his Memoirs.

The late King of *England* perceived it, and was so far convinced of it, that he never made use of him in the last Commissions he committed to his charge, to the States-General; but only out of Consideration of the Acquaintance he had there, who made people conjecture that Sir *W.* might have some Credit amongst the *Spaniards*, as well as in *Holland*, as he himself assures us he had.

Neither was he employed, but only upon some Occasions, wherein one would not employ a Man who was a Favourite of the Prince, or for whom he had any value, or in whom he might confide; 'tis a Truth owned and confess'd by Sir *W.* himself in his Memoirs; and a Man may judge of it by the so opposite false steps, that he complains, they caused him to make, and by all the things that were done contrary to the Measures that he had taken, just as if the Court had had a mind to expose him.

Besides, the King slighted him after the Peace at *Nimeguen*, and laid him aside, making very little use of him; it was not, what he would make us believe, his love for his own ease, and his Indispositions of body, that made him decline his Employments. Never did Man desire more to have an hand in Affairs; he was removed by reason of the King's secret dissatisfaction at his Services, by that Conduct and Management, which in executing the King's Orders, when they were contrary to his Opinion, and disliking to his Friends, smelt very much like perfidiousness

ouſneſs and Treachery, as may principally appear in whatſoever he did for to evade and fruſtrate the King's Orders, contained in the diſpatch I left with him at the *Hague*, to *Nimeguen*, for the concluſion of the Peace, by Order of his Majeſty.

It is concerning this buſineſs that has made ſo great a noiſe for which Sir *W.* takes occaſion to reproach me, that I am going to relate you ſome Particulars in the Reflections, that I am obliged to make upon what he ſays concerning my ſelf. Do not expect, my Lord, that I ſhould teach you here the true Cauſe of ſo extraordinary a Reſolution which ſo much ſurprized Sir *W.* with which Penſioner *Fagel* was ſo much aſtoniſhed, and which in Sirs *W*'s opinion did entirely change the Fate of *Chriſtendom*.

I ſhould pleaſe him very much, if I ſhould diſcover ſo important a Secret, in which many perſons in the late and preſent Reigns have been concerned. I do not doubt but Sir *W* extremely deſires it; he knows very well the greater knowledge of theſe Practices would perhaps raiſe a great deal of trouble in the Parliament to ſome people, whoſe Ruine he deſires at the bottom of his Heart, being little concerned for the reputation of the late King, and envious of the eſteem of thoſe that protected him, and who have beſtowed ſo many favours upon him.

As for my ſelf at this Conjuncture, in which K. *William* endeavours the repoſe of *Chriſtendom*, and the Happineſs of *England* with ſo much Zeal and Glory, I will not ſtir up the envy and hatred which has too much appeared in *England*; and, which may perhaps be a great Obſtacle to that Union which is ſo neceſſary to the happy Execution of the Undertakings of this great Monarch.

There arrived, said Sir *W. at that time from* England, *one whose name was* de Cros. I shall not stop, my Lord, upon this Term of Contempt, *One called*; it is a very malicious Expression, in respect of my self; the late King of *England* himself did me the Honour to treat me in Passports, in his Letters, in his Commissions which he charged me with: It is very impudent and rude to speak so of a Man, who is of a good Family, who has had the honour of being employed for almost twenty years, and whom a great Prince and a King have not disdain'd to use as Councellor of State.

He was (continues Sir *W.*) *a French Monk, who had lately quitted his Frock for a Petticoat.* Here is a reproach which ill becomes an Ambassador of a Monarch, who is Defender of the Faith, and of the Protestant Religion; of one who declared so openly at *Nimeguen*, that he would have nothing to do with the Pope's *Nuncio*. I do not know, my Lord, that it is a disgrace to be a Monk; and much less, to have been one formerly: There are indeed amongst them, as well as amongst the rest of Mankind, some miserable Wretches, of a mean Birth, and of a disorderly and infamous Life; People of no use, without Honour, and without Reputation: Sir *W. T.* thought, without doubt, that I was of that Number; but there are likewise several very famous for the Sanctity of their Lives, of an extraordinary Merit, and of the greatest Quality, Sons of Princes and Kings, and Kings themselves, and Popes: But if this sort of Life is not now, as formerly it was, so certain a Character of a good and honest Man, do's Sir *W.* think he can dishonour me, in reproaching me for leaving a Profession which himself thinks

thinks ſo contemptible, for a *Petticoat*?

It will not be material in this place to ſay how I was engaged therein in my tender years. There is nothing more uſual in *France*, *Spain* and *Italy*, where ancient Houſes do ſacrifice a good part of their Families in Monaſteries; 'tis a Maxim, to ſay the truth, moſt cruel and horrid.

Neither will I relate how, and after what manner I came out of it; however, it was not for a Petticoat. I have remained ſeveral years without ſo much as having any inclination to it; and it hath been apparent that I have had much a-do, and was very much unreſolved as to this Choice.

There was too great advantage to throw off my Frock for the Petticoat that I have taken, not to do it. It is a Petticoat of a Scotch Stuff, and which hath been a greater Ornament, and done the Crown of *England* more good than Sir *W.* himſelf; if he do not know it, the Hiſtory of *England* and *Scotland* in theſe late Times may inform him. I ſhall enlarge no further, that I may not engage my ſelf to publiſh the Misfortunes and Diſorders of Sir *W*'s Family; which, I ſuppoſe would not be like a Gentleman. I have no reaſon that I know of, to complain, neither of his Lady, nor his Son, nor of his Daughters.

Beſides, had I even caſt off the Monk's Habit for a Petticoat, I ſhould have done no more than a great many worthy deſerving Perſons have done; yea, ſome of the Pope's *Nuncio's*, Cardinals, Biſhops, Kings and Princeſſes too, who have quitted the Veil for the Breeches, whoſe Poſterity, I make no queſtion is highly eſteemed and reverenced by Sir *W.*

I did so well insinuate my self, saith Sir *W.* *into the Court of* Sweden, *that I obtained from thence a Commission, to be a kind of an Agent in* England. That is very dirty. I have had the management of Affairs and the Quality of Envoy, when Sir *W.* had no more than that of an Agent or Resident at *Brussels*. I was Envoy at the Court of *England* before ever I was in *Sweden*, or before ever I had any acquaintance there.

I went the first time to *Sweden* just at that time the late King of *England* sent me into *Sweden* and *Denmark*, about the beginning of the Year 1676. The Pretence was for to demand the free passage of Letters; which the King of *Denmark* refused, for hastening the Congress of *Nimeguen*, in procuring the expedition of Passports, requisite to the Ministers of State who were to compose the Assembly; and also to urge the Departure of the Embassadors belonging to those two Northern Crowns. But now the true Cause was quite another Matter, and of greater consequence; not for the King of *England*, but indeed for another Potentate.— That shall be made appear some time or other in my Memoirs.

Had I been a kind of a *Swedish* Agent, I should not have defended my self in that Point; I should have held it as a great piece of Honour, since it could not chuse but be very glorious and splendid, to have the Affairs of so great a King, in such important Conjunctures as those were, committed to ones charge and care; but at the very time Sir *W.* speaks of, I was dignified with the Quality of Envoy Extraordinary from the Duke of *Holstein Gottorp*, acknowledged and received at the Court of *England* for such.

Sir *W.* knows that very well, there was sent him divers Memoirs to *Nimeguen* whilst the Mediation lasted, which I had delivered in at *London*, concerning the re-setling my Master; but the Interest and Concerns of this Prince were so indifferent to him, that I was fain to beg of my Lord Treasurer to recommend them more particularly to Sir *Leoline Jenkyns*.

Moreover, you may see Sir *W. T.* mentions in his Memoirs all the Potentates that had any interest in the Peace of *Nimeguen*, except the Duke of *Holstein Gottorp*, notwithstanding he had two Ministers at the Congress, and although *France* had stipulated for his re-establishment in the second Article or Condition of the Peace, such who shall peruse the Memoirs of Sir *W.* might be apt to think that the Duke of *Holstein* was reckoned as no body in the World, and that he had no part at all in what pass'd in Christendoom, from the commencing of the War in 1672, until the conclusion of the Peace 1679. But Thanks be to God Sir *W.* is not the Steward of Glory and Immortality.

Sir *W.* therefore must have often read my Name and Character in the Letters, and Orders of the Court, and cannot have forgot that he came to render me a Visit at my Lodgings, at such time as he, by the King's Order, was to confer with me upon what account Monsieur *Olivencramtz* might be obliged to pass from *Nimeguen* into *England*. That *Swedish* Embassador lodg'd at that time in my house.

'Tis true indeed, as the Interests of my Master were inseparable from those of *Sweden*, I found my self engaged to be very much concerned in the Interests of that Crown in whatsoever might depend

depend on my care: There was an Envoy extraordinary from *Sweden* at *London*; and yet for all that, the *Swediſh* Ambaſſadors did me the Honour to maintain a very regular Correſpondence by Letters with me: The King of *England* was alſo graciouſly pleaſed to hear me in what concerned the Affairs of the *Swede*, although I was no otherwiſe authorized for it. Monſieur *Oliviencrantz*, his Voyage to *London* was contrived firſt of all by the King and my ſelf, without the leaſt medling or intervention of any one of his Miniſters; and then again in the Negotiation, whereof my Voyage to *Nimeguen* was a Conſequence, the Reſtitution of *Sweden* was eſpecially inſiſted upon.

All this made many Men believe, that I was intruſted with the Management of the Affairs of this Crown; and Monſieur *Van Beuninguen* believed it ſo to be, in the Letter he writ to the Lords States-General, which hath ſince been printed; where he ſpeaks with ſo much uncertainty concerning the Voyage I was about to make to *Nimeguen*, and about this Negotiation, that it was evident it was a very great Secret.

Since his being at London, ſaith Sir *W.* ſpeaking of me, *he hath wholly devoted himſelf to Monſieur* Barillon, *the* French *Ambaſſador, under pretence to act for the Intereſts of* Sweden. Monſieur *Barillon* was not at that time in *London*, when I was ſent thither, he came not thither till a long time after; I found Monſieur *le Marquis de Ruvigni* there, whom Monſieur *Courtin* ſucceeded; and after that Monſieur *Barillon* came to take the place of Monſieur *Courtin*.

I never devoted my ſelf to this Ambaſſador, and I never

never had any Correſpondence or was in League with him prejudicial to my Duty. Nay, it happened the King of *England* one day, having a deſign more eſpecially to take into Conſideration the *Swediſh* Intereſts, Monſieur *de Barillon* diverted him from it; whether for fear leſt a particular Peace ſhould be clapp'd up between the *Northern* Crowns, or elſe out of Jealouſie, that he might leave the Glory of the Reſtitution of this Crown to the King his Maſter; and depriving it of all other relief, might keep it in the mean time in a greater dependance.

I was ſo much put to it, and fell out with Mr. *Barillon* ſo much thereupon, that I did not ſo much as ſpeak to him in 3 or 4 months; nay, one day as the King was at Dinner I caſt in his teeth what had paſt in the preſence of *Monſieur Wachmeiſter*, Envoy-Extraordinary from the King of *Sweden*. I do not queſtion but Monſieur *Wachmeiſter* remembers it well enough; he is no leſs worthy to be believed, than he is brave and undaunted.

And now after this manner I became all one with the Ambaſſador of *France*. But yet I muſt confeſs that at ſuch time as he ſtickled for my Maſter's Intereſt and that of the *Swede*, I was intirely devoted to him, thinking my ſelf moſt happy that I was enabled to pay my moſt humble Services to ſuch a great Monarch, whoſe Subject I have the honour to be, without failing in my Loyalty and Allegiance, which I ought to pay him before all others whatſoever.

Whereupon, my Lord, I ſhall tell you one thing, in which *Monſieur* de *Ruvigni*, at preſent Lord *Galloway*, cannot but agree with me, no, nor *Monſieur Olivencrantz* neither. The departure of this Ambaſſador for *England*, occaſioned ſhrewd ſuſpici-

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on both at *Nimeguen* and *London* to the *French Ambassadors:* Monsieur *Barillon* was much alarm'd at it, especially when he saw that Monsieur *Olivencrantz* lodged at my House, and when he knew that I had offered a Project, upon which I had the Honour sometimes to be in debate with my Lord Treasurer, Monsieur *Barillon* put all in practice to sift him to the bottom; nevertheless all the offers of this *French* Embassador proved ineffectual, and wrought nothing upon this Man; who, if a man would give credit to Sir *W. T.* was intirely devoted to Monsr. *Barillon*, and yet Monsr. *Barillon* found him not to be corrupted or bribed.

One would think, my Lord, that Sir *W. T.* has a mind to make Men believe, that I was only sent into *Holland* to carry him a Dispatch from the Court; for he is always harping upon this String, when he mentions my Voyage: Yet please to take notice, my Lord, That he confesseth that it was I, *who procured this Dispatch.*

What means the King then, when he says, That *I had been too cunning for them all*? There is not so much Prudence and great Abilities required in a *Courier*; it is sufficient that he be expeditious. But this Message must needs have been Honourable, to employ an Envoy extraordinary of one of the greatest Princes of the Empire, except it be what Sir *W.* hath been pleased to say, That I was so much devoted to the King; yea, and to Monsieur *Barillon* too, and so little tender of my Master's Dignity, that I would comply with any Offices.

If

If I were a Couriet or Messenger, Monsieur *T.* hath at least done me a good Office, in representing me to be, what I would not have the Confidence to believe my self; namely, that I was an able Messenger, a Courier of the Cabinet, and very deep in the King's Trust and Confidence. For before ever Monsieur *T.* spoke of this Dispatch, which as he says, the Court sent him, to be kept as a mighty Secret, *Pensioner* Fagel, says he, *knew all the Contents, and was quite stun'd at it.* Du Cros *had industriously informed the Deputies of the Town,* (1 Copy from Monsieur *T.*) *and had told them that the two Kings were intirely agreed on the Conditions of Peace; that he had carried Orders to Monsieur* T. *to go to* Nimeguen, *and that at his Arrival there he would find the Letters of my Lord* Sunderland, *the* English *Ambassador, at* Paris, *with all the Articles as they are concluded between the two Crowns.*

Here is, I acknowledge, a very expert Messenger, very knowing in the Secret, and very forward in the work, in 4 or 5 hours time, that I had been at the *Hague.* Monsieur *T.* will be much more stun'd than Monsieur *Fagel* was, when he shall know hereafter what past at the *Hague,* in that little time that I was there, not having discovered what it really was, neither then, nor since. It was most certainly, something of greater importance than to tell the Deputies of the Towns the Contents of the Dispatch, with which I was intrusted. And Monsieur *T.* will see clearly one day, how far *this only incident did change the Fate of* Christendome.

I pretend not, adds Monsieur *T. to determine by*

whose means, and by du Cros, obtained this Dispatch. And a little lower, *All that I could learn at Court, about this matter, was, that his Orders were made up one morning, in an hours time, at the Dutchess of* Portsmouths *apartment, by the intervention of Monsieur* Barillon.

It's pity, that an *English* Ambassadour, that all the King his Master's Council (if one can believe it) that a Man, who if he had pleased himself, might have been several times Secretary of State, should be so little informed, I will not say during his absence, while he remained at the *Hague*, and at *Nimeguin*, but even since his return into *England*, of what past there, and chiefly in that very affair, wherein Monsieur *T.* was more exercised than in any other Business that he ever undertook.

But how he could be know it, since neither the Duke of *York*, nor my Lord Treasurer, nor hardly the King himself (if we may believe Monsieur *T.*) knew any thing of it; And *that these Orders were made in one morning, in an hours time, at the Dutchess of* Portsmouths *Apartment, by the Interception of Monsieur* Barillon.

Observe now, if you please, my Lord, the Malice of Monsieur *T.* in Relation to Monsieur *Williamson*, on whom he would give in this place, the Character of Perfidy, as he hath done in diverse other parts of his Memoirs. Monsieur *T.* ought to have had at least, some respect for the King, whose Orders Monsieur *Williamson* did Execute.

I never talkt of it, says Monsieur *T. to the Secretary of State* Williamson, as if he would say that

that he was sufficiently perswaded that Monsieur *Williamson* was a Man altogether for *France*, and that he was intirely devoted, as well as my self, to Monsieur *Barillon*, and that he was the Author of this Dispatch.

Is it not clear that Monsieur *T.* would make us imagine that Monsieur the *Chevalier Williamson*, Secretary of State, the *French* Ambassador, and the Dutchess of *Portsmouth* promised these Orders? As for me, tho' I had the Dispatch given me, yet he does not accuse me openly in this place of bearing any other part in this Affair, than only as a Messenger entrusted with the Conveyance. And not only so, but I never went to the Dutchess of *Portsmouths* Lodgings, she having an irreconcilable aversion for me, and I for her.

Can there be a greater absurdity than this? To endeavour to perswade his Readers that the most important affair of that time, on which depended (says Monsieur *T.*) *The Fate of Christendom was concluded and made up, in one hours time, in the Apartment of the Dutchess of* Portsmouth, *by the Intervention of Monsieur* Barillon.

Monsieur *T.* is accustomed so little to spare the King's Reputation, that he fears not on this occasion, to prostitute it, in a strange manner. He does not only charge him with partiality and connivance, in suffering *Valentiennes*, *Cambray*, St. *Omer*, and several other places in *Flanders*, to be taken, without Murmur or Opposition; But the King of *England* obliged as much as could be, in the Quality of a Mediator, and more through the Interest of his Kingdoms to procure the Repose of Christendom, yet corrupted by the *French* Ambassadours, and by

the Charms of a Miſtreſs, Sacrifices all *Europe*, and his own Eſtate, to a Power that is naturally an Enemy to *England*. And this without Ceremony, in an hours time, without the advice of his Council, and hides himſelf in the Apartment of a Woman, as if he was ſenſible that he went about an action the moſt unworthy of the Majeſty of a Prince, and the moſt oppoſite to the Felicity of his People that could be. For what other Conſtruction can any one make of what Monſieur *T.* ſays, and can any man conclude, otherwiſe when he reads this worthy paſſage in his Memoirs?

Certain it is, that this Diſpatch was made up by Monſieur *Williamſon*, and by the Kings Order. And ſince the King was pleaſed to avoid opening his mind hereon to Monſieur *T.* giving him no other anſwer, but that I had been *more cunning than all of 'em*; Monſieur *T.* might poſſibly Addreſs himſelf to Monſieur *Williamſon*, who, it may be, might tell him, *by whoſe means, and how* Du Croſs *had obtained this Diſpatch.*

'Tis plain that Monſieur *T.* deſpairs of penetrating into this Affair; that he knows not where about he is when he ſpeaks of it; and that he only ſeeks to blacken the Reputation of the King and his Miniſters. If the Peace of *Aix la Chapelle* is his Favourite, becauſe he hath the Vanity to believe it to be intirely his own work; 'tis eaſie ſeen that the Peace of *Nimiguen* is his Averſion, becauſe he is aſhamed to have had ſo ſmall a Part in it as he had, and that the moſt glorious part of his Life is not to be found in that Negotiation.

I would have this Complaiſance for Monſieur *T.* though he treats me ſo ill; I would, at leaſt, in ſome part,

part, draw him out of this great incertainty, on the subject of the Dispatch which I brought him.

He is deceived, when he imputes this Resolution to the Intrigues and Perswasions of *France*. It was neither managed, nor taken, nor dispatcht, at the Dutchess of *Portsmouth*'s; nor was it by the means or intervention of Monsieur *Barillon*. That Ambassadour had no part in it, but on the very Instant when the affair was concluding. He was not so much as present at the Expedition, as he had not been at any time at the Deliberations. The Marquis of *Ruvigny*, the Son, carryed the first News to the King, his Master, the same day that I parted for *Nimeguen*. Monsieur *Williamson* knew well what was contained in the Dispatch to Monsieur *T*, in which there was nothing very mysterious. But he was never privy to the secret of the Negotiation, and tho' he was present when I took my leave of the King in Secretary *Coventry*'s Office, yet he was then ignorant of the true subject of my Voyage, and perhaps he never knew it.

The King was not at all precipitate, and the affair was not concluded and dispatcht in an hours time. It was treated on, and deliberately considered near Three weeks. There was time given to the Ambassadours of *Swedeland* to resolve themselves, and make their Answer. The King's design was doubtless aimed for the good of *Europe*, and the publick tranquility; but in truth, he had not in his Eye, nor did he certainly believe *that happy Fate of Christendome*, for which Monsieur *T*. labours so earnestly in consort with some particular Persons, Enemies to the State, Seditious, and Disturbers of the Publick Repose.

But

But *the King ſaid pleaſantly*, adds Monſieur *T.* *that the Rogue* (Coquin) du Croſ *had outwitted them all.* If Monſieur *T.* had not made the King ſay this, and had ſaid it himſelf, I might have applied to him, with as much Juſtice as any man in the World, theſe Verſes which *I* have read ſomewhere,

Coquin, *he calls me, with mighty diſdain.*

Doubtleſs, I ſhould anſwer Monſieur *T.* thus,

Seek your Coquins *elſewhere, you're one your ſelf.* But the Perſon of Kings is ſacred. Beſides, Can that be an abuſe, which is ſpoken *pleaſantly*, without the leaſt deſign perhaps of offending. For *Coquin* is a word which the Late King of *England* often uſed, when he ſpoke of People for whom he had notwithſtanding Reſpect and Conſideration. 'Tis true, he uſed the word alſo very familiarly, when he was angry, but at ſuch times he ſpoke with indignation, and not pleaſantly.

The Parliament preſented an Addreſs to the King (as Monſieur *T.* reports) in which they repreſented the Progreſs of the *French* Arms, and deſired him to ſtop it before it became more dangerous to *England*, and the other Neighbouring Countries. *Don Bernard de Salinas* (continues Monſieur *T.*) ſaid to certain Members of the Commons, that this Addreſs had ſo exaſperated the King, that he ſaid thoſe who were the Authors of it were a Company of *Coquins.*

I remembred at my Arrival in *England*, in 1675. before I was to go into *France* in Quality of an Envoy, whither *I* acknowledge his moſt Chriſtian Majeſty would not permit me to come, either becauſe they had informed him that I had embraced the Proteſtant Religion, or it may be becauſe the King

King of *France* would not receive his own Subjects, in the Quality of Miniſters of other Princes. It happened, I ſay, that the King of *England* (to whom alſo I had a Commiſſion) bid the *Marquiſs of Ruvigni*, one Evening, bring me to his Cabinet, and himſelf come in with me.

The King enquired of me, at the firſt, what *news* I could tell him of the Condition of the *Swedes* Army in *Pomerania*, through which *I* paſt, and expreſt much concern that the *Conſtable Wrangle*, not minding to paſs forward into the Empire (as Monſieur *T.* ſay's) had thereby different pretences, had attacked the Elector of *Branderburg* as vigorouſly and with as much ſucceſs as he could. I told the King the reaſon, which concerns not my preſent ſubject to report here.

Afterwards, I having informed the King of the State of *Germany*, the King believing that I was to paſs into *France*, ſpoke to me in theſe very words. *Monſieur, tell the King, my Brother, that it is much against my mind that I have made Peace with theſe* Coquins, *the* Hollanders, *Monſieur the Marquiſs of* Ruvigny, *who ſtands here, knows it well.*

Sometime before the making of this Peace, the King talking with Monſieur *de Shrenborn* Envoy from *Mayence*, told him alſo, in Relation to the *Hollanders*, *In a little time, Monſieur, I will bring theſe* Coquins *to Reaſon.* Monſieur *de Barillon* Writ to the Count *d' Avaux*, the *French* Ambaſſadour at the *Hague*, certain Diſcourſes which the King had concerning the *Hollanders*. The Count *d' Avaux* made uſe of this to encreaſe the juſt Suſpitions of the *Eſtates*. He carried the Letters of Monſieur *Barillon*, to Monſieur *Fagel*. Whereupon, the *States* made

made a terrible Complaint, and the King of *England* said on this Occasion to the Duke of *Lauderdale*, that *Monsieur* Batillon, *and the Count d'Avaux were* Coquins.

Had the King called me *Coquin*, seriously, I ought not to think it any very strange thing; since he hath treated in the same manner the most powerful and wisest Republick of the World, to whom he had so great Obligations; two Ambassadours of his most Christian Majesty, of extraordinary merit, and as honest Men as *France* ever had; and also the greatest Lords of his own Kingdom who were Authors of the Addres which the Commons presented him.

There is also this difference, that the King, speaking of those Lords, those Ambassadours, and the *Hollanders*, he called them *Coquins* in anger, but when he spoke of me, he said it *pleasantly* (according to *Monsieur T.*) *and that I was a cunning* Coquin, *more cunning than the Duke of* York, *my Lord Treasurer*, *the Secretary of State* Williamson, *and even the King himself.*

Either I am much deceived, or all the Ministers of the Confederates that were then at *London*, would have been all *Coquins* at this rate, and *Monsieur Temple* himself, and would have deceived those who abused and deceived them. For besides, there is more credit methinks on such like Occasions, *to be a cunning Rogue*, and to pass for a more able Man than the most able Ministers of State, than to be the laughing-stock, and the Fool of a *Monk*, and a sort of Agent; Sir *William Temple*, and some others, were truly so on this occasion.

But

But I would acquaint Sir *W. Temple* of what he has not perhaps heard of, as he has done the like to me, I do not invent it to revenge my self, and if I would make use of falshoods, I might make recourse to more heinous Affronts; the truth of my Remarks upon his Memoirs, shall be my full satisfaction. What I shall relate may be found in my Letters upon that account to the Prince my Master, and his Ministers: I took no particular care to divulge it immediately to Monsieur *Barillon*, to whom I was so much devoted; were he alive he might witness that as well as the Aversion the King of *England* always bore to Sir *W. Temple*; and the little Esteem he had of him at bottom. Upon my return from *Nimeguen* to *London*, I went immediately to Court, as soon as I came there I meet Prince *Rupert*, who askt me with a sterne Countenance if the Peace was Concluded, I answered him in the Affirmative, upon which he cryed out and said, *O Dissimulation.* After having had the Honour to give his Majesty an account of what was past, I told him of the ill humour I perceived Sir *W.T.* to be in, and what I knew of his neglect of his Majesties Orders; The King seemed very angry with Sir *W*'s. Proceedings, and said, *he was a very impertinent R— to find fault with my Commands.*

But if the late K. of *England*, did not approve of my Conduct in the affairs of *Nimeguen*, which in effect he declared at first in Publick not to be pleased with, in which he play'd his part to admiration: If against his will, I had truly inform'd the several Deputies at the *Hague*, how that the two Kings of *England* and *France* were

 intirely

intirely agreed upon Conditions of Peace; if this accident changed the Destiny of *Christendom*, and what endeavours soever the English Court had made, there were no ways to repair the Breach. If I was a fool, a peice of an Agent, or a Knave, How comes it that the King suffer'd me to stay in *England* near a year? nay, as long as my Master thought fit. Why was the King so civil to me? Why did he recompence me for my Voyage from *Nimeguen*? Upon what account did the King bestow several other Favours upon me? How comes it, that I, haveing made a great Entertainment and Fireworks, to shew my joy for the Re-establishment of the Duke my Master to his Territories, that the whole Court should do me that Honour as to be present thereat?

It was not my quality of Envoy Extraordinary of the Duke *de Gottorp*, that hindred the King to express some kind of resentment against me, and thereupon to bid me avoid the Kingdom. I do well remember the King was just upon the point of making Mounsieur *Van Beuningen* Ambassador to the States General, to withdraw and get him out of the Land, because he had got the word *Connivance*, to be foisted into a Memorial he presented to the King, for the recalling of the English Forces, which bore Armes in *France*.

Don Bernard de Salinas was the Spanish Envoy; the King made much of him, yea and loved him for the particular care he had in *Flanders* of the education of the E. of *Plym.* one of the Ks. Sons, He did nothing but report up and down, that the King gave the Authors of the Address, presented to his Majesty, by the House of Commons no bet-

ter

ter name than Rogues. The King had his liberty to reject this Addreſs, as indeed he did, and no ways apprehended the Conſequences of it at that time; yet for all that, he baniſhed *Don Bern. de Salinas*, not in the leaſt conſidering his Character, nor the Kindneſs wherewith he had always honoured this Miniſter; Yea and he Baniſhed him too, without any reſpect to the King of *Spain*.

But, for me who had abuſed and deceived the D. of *York*, My Lord Treaſurer, ay, and the K. himſelf, who had overthrown all thoſe fair and vaſt Projects, which the Confederates had contrived at *London* and *Nimeguen*; and Sir *W. T.* at the *Hague*, which had diſcloſed the Kings diſpatches, a *maſter piece of Secrecy, who was the cauſe of quite changing the Fate of Chriſtendom*: for me, I ſay, againſt whom the P. of *Orange* had written, and cauſed to be written ſo many thundering Letters, againſt whom all the Miniſters of the Confederates called for Vengeance; againſt whom Sir *W. T.* levelled more of his endeavours to deſtroy me than the Court did to repair this Breach, and patch up the buſineſs, it lets me alone, it does not make the leaſt complaint to the Duke my Maſter; the K. does me a great many favours, and laughs in his Sleeve at the Surpriſe, at the Sorrow, and Complaints of the Confederates, and Sir *W. T.*

After all that, can any body reaſonably believe that the K. of *England* might have lookt upon me as *a Rogue*: And when he told Sir *W. T.* after a droleing manner that I was *a Rogue and had out witted them all*, may it not be probable,

that he had a mind to jeer him, and to make him ſenſible that he was taken but for Fool? It was very like ſo to be.

I have not gone about, My Lord, to ſay in this place what I might ſay, to wipe of all thoſe ſcandalous impreſſions that Sir *W. T.* hath ſuch a deſire to faſten upon me; I ſuppoſe I have given your Lordſhip ſufficiently to underſtand, that what he hath been pleaſed to ſay upon this Theme of me, proceeds from inveterate Spite and Malice.

But, what way is there to get clear of one of the moſt Haughty, and moſt Revengeful of men, who in his Memoires falls foul upon the reputation even of the greateſt Miniſter, who caſts aſperſions on the Duke of *Lauderdale*, that moſt Zealous, and moſt Faithful Miniſter, that ever the King was Maſter of; on My Lord *Arlington* whom Sir *W.* is bound to reſpect as his Maſter, who was his Benefactor, that raiſed him from his fordid obſcurity, and as it were from the Dunghill, to bring him into play, This ingreatful perſon forſooke him, that he might catch at the ſhadow and appearance of mending his Fortune; he would not have ſtuck to ruin My Lord *Arlington*, by baſe indirect means: This is no hard matter to make out, even by Sir *W. T.* his own Memoirs, but yet I am acquainted with ſome particulars upon this Subject that make my hair ſtand an end, nay, and I have not only learnt them from My Lord *Arlingtons* own mouth, but alſo from a noted Miniſter of thoſe times.

What a piece of impudence to call in queſtion and tax the Principal Miniſters, and the ſobereſt

Magi-

Magiſtrates of *Holland*, viz. Monſieur *de Beyerning*, Monſieur *Valkmier* and others, generally eſteemed by every body. To arraign them, I ſay, ſome for Avarice, others for Partiality, I had almoſt ſaid for betraying their Truſt. But above all, to give ſuch diſadvantagious repreſentations of the E. of *Rocheſter*, and of Sir *Leoline Jenkyns*; that, it would have been all one if he had ſaid, that Sir *Leoline*, was a man of the other World, a plain downright Ideot, void of inſight and Experience: And that *Law. Hyde*, now E. of *Rocheſter*, was a Lord altogether unacquainted with, and no ways fit for the imployment the King gave him at *Nimeguen*; nevertheleſs, Sir *Leoline* was made Secretary of State, and no notice at all taken of Sir *W.*

As for *Laurence Hyde*, Sir *W.* ſpeaks firſt of him, as if he were a Youth, that ſhould have been ſent to the Univerſity, *I plainly perceive*, ſaith he, *that the chief deſign of that Commiſſion was to introduce Mr.* Hyde *into this ſort of employment, and to let him underſtand the manner how the men behave themſelves in the ſame*, then he adds, *He excuſed himſelf out of modeſty, to have any thing to do with any Conference, and Compiling Diſpatches.* Was it out of the reſpect he owed to Sir *W. T.* or for want of Capacity, that My Lord ſhewed ſo much modeſty, that he would neither make Diſpatches, nor meddle with Conferences, what, he who had been ingaged already, as he was afterwards in very important Affairs; who had been Embaſſadour in the principal Courts of *Europe*, who was choſen as Chief of the Embaſie at *Nimegnen*,

guen, one who in all reſpects is ſo far above Sir *W. T.* for all theſe great qualities; yet My Lord affords Sir *W.* juſt as much *difference*, as a petty Scholar does a famous Pedant. And to reward him, Sir *W. T.* would make him paſs in the world, for an Embaſſadour that was but at beſt his Scholar.

I make account to tell you, what Sir *W.* dare not acknowledge. Mr. *Hyde*, being more ſubtile, and of greater Abilities than Sir *W.* and of that quality too, that was not to be expoſed, would not intermeddle in a Mediation, which was like to ſuffer ſo groſs Indignities, as the Mediation of *England* ſuffered at the Treaty of *Nimeguen*. One time or other I ſhall publiſh thoſe indignities in my Memoires, together with the weakneſs, and tameneſs wherewith they were content to ſuffer them.

But now, if Sir *W. T.* hath not ſpared ſuch Illuſtrious perſons as theſe: No, not ſo much as My Lord Treaſurer, at preſent Marquis of *Caermarthen*, laying ſomething to his charge, whom alſo he does not do that right and Juſtice, which is due to ſo great a Miniſter of State, one of the greateſt Wits of the Age, for buſineſs; a perſon ſo Loyal to the King his Maſter, that he ſacrificed himſelf for his ſake; and after all, ſo full of zeal for his Country, that he hath bethought himſelf of all expedients, and hath not feared to expoſe himſelf to peril and utter undoing, that he might deliver it from the miſchiefs that threaten it. If Sir *Wil.* hath not ſpared the Kings perſon, whoſe Dignity and Reputation he ſo often ſacrifices, can I hope to eſcape his foul mouthed Language.

Per-

Peradventure he had better have done something else, & something wiser; great Confident of Princes and Ks. the sole preserver of *Flanders*, as he is, than to have entred the list with *a Monk, with a kind of an Agent, and with a running Knave.* But his desire of revenge hath prevailed, he believes himself cruelly wrong'd, and he is in the right on't, for that at the *Hague* and at *Nimeguen*, which he was confident would be the Theatre of his Glory, they made him act a disgraceful ridiculous part. He imagines I am partly the cause of it, either because that my Voyage to *Nimeguen* might have been the effect of my Negotiation, which he might have gathered by the Kings answer, or, because I might have done nothing in *Holland*, but administer cause of Suspicions and Umbrages, that hasten'd on the Peace, in spite of his Teeth, and Reverst the Treaty he had but lately concluded at the *Hague*.

My Lord, If I be not mistaken, here is another occasion of Sir *W.T.* being vext at me. There was a Treaty a foot between *England* and *Spain*, for which purpose Sir *W.* was employ'd without any other design in reference to *England*, but to abase the Parliament, and no other on the *Spaniards* side, but only to add a little more reputation to their Affairs. Now the Parliament got nothing by it, and the greatest advantage accrued to the Spaniard, who upon this occasion made him really believe it, and so took him for a Cully. A sad acknowledgment for having *alone saved* Flanders *for* Spain! I ridiculed this Treaty, I made observations thereon, that were published

ſhed in *Holland*, and men judged that the obſervations were well grounded: After that, and after the buſineſs of *Nimeguen*, I was not to expect any Encomiums from ſo unjuſt a perſon as Sir *W. T.* but ſtill he might have writ more like a Gentleman, and have ſpoken of me without ever looſing the reſpect which he owed to my Maſter, without doing ſo great an injury in my perſon, both to my Name, and *Family* out of a merry humour, for in whatſoever paſt, I performed the duty of a Miniſter, both zealous and moſt faithful; Nay, and I did nothing but even by concurrance and good likeing of the King of *England*.

I beſeech you, My Lord, conſerve for me the honour of your gracious favour, and be fully perſwaded, that I ſhall be all my life long, with much reſpect.

Your moſt humble, &c.

FINIS.

AN ADVERTISEMENT, Concerning the Foregoing Letter.

It is now some Months ago since the Foreign Journals gave us to understand, that Mousieur de Crois, *the Ingenious Author of the foregoing Treatise, was meditating an Answer to Sir* William Temple's *Memoirs. As nothing more sensibly touches us, than to have our Reputation wounded by those Persons whom we never injured. We are not to admire that our Author who thought himself*

unjuſtly attacked in theſe Memoirs, *took the firſt opportunity to juſtifie his proceedings to the World; and if he ſometimes falls out into ſevere or indecent Language, it is to be remembred that he was not the firſt Agreſſor, but that his Adverſary taught him the way. How well* M. de Croiſ *has acquitted himſelf in this Affair, I will by no means take upon me to determine. Let the Reader, without prejudice or partiality, conſider what both Parties ſay, and then let him judge for himſelf.*

When theſe Memoirs *firſt appeared in publick, I remember the* Criticks *in Town were much divided in their Sentiments about them; ſome found fault with the Stile, as too luſcious and affected; others cenſured the Digreſſions, as Foreign to the Buſineſs in hand, and particularly the Story of Prince* Maurice's *Parrot, that (to uſe Sir* William's *own Expreſſion,* p. 58.) *ſpoke, and asked,*

and